

SENATE BILL NO. 148

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR TORGERSON

Introduced: 3/16/01

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to remote water storage for fire departments."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
4 to read:

5 FINDINGS. The legislature finds that

6 (1) Alaska firefighters serve the Alaska people daily under adverse and
7 sometimes extreme conditions;

8 (2) Alaska firefighters are often hampered by a lack of sufficient water to fight
9 fires, as many areas of the state are not serviced by domestic water supplies that are sufficient
10 to meet fire protection needs;

11 (3) many areas of the state are threatened by the potential for catastrophic
12 wildfires due to infested and infected timber;

13 (4) homes and businesses are threatened by these wildfires and by the threat of
14 structure fires not caused by wildfires; and

15 (5) by providing for the construction of remote water storage sites, the state

1 can

2 (A) save lives;

3 (B) reduce property loss; and

4 (C) lower property insurance rates.

5 * **Sec. 2.** AS 18.70 is amended by adding a new section to read:

6 **Article 3A. Remote Water Storage for Fire Protection.**

7 **Sec. 18.70.400. Remote water storage sites.** (a) The Department of Natural
8 Resources shall design a remote water storage site for fire protection and service use
9 in areas of the state that are not serviced by a domestic water supply sufficient for fire
10 protection or service. Each remote water storage site must consist of an underground
11 storage tank capable of storing at least 10,000 gallons of water and a pump, hydrant,
12 and associated piping.

13 (b) Annually, the department shall solicit applications from organized fire
14 services for the construction of remote water storage sites for fire protection and
15 service use. The department shall consider the applications and rank them based on
16 the following factors:

17 (1) distance from a domestic water supply adequate for fire service
18 requirements;

19 (2) number of homes and businesses to be protected or serviced by the
20 remote water storage site;

21 (3) potential fire danger for the area to be protected or serviced,
22 including the number of structure fires and wildfires annually occurring in the area and
23 special factors or threats such as infested or infected timber;

24 (4) the ability of the organized fire service to provide matching funds
25 for the construction of the site and the ability of the organized fire service to maintain
26 and operate the remote water storage site; and

27 (5) other factors to be determined by the department.

28 (c) Based on appropriations received for the purpose by the department, the
29 department shall construct remote water storage sites based on the rankings. The
30 department may require the organized fire service to provide matching funds for the
31 construction of the site in an amount not to exceed 50 percent of the total construction

1 cost for the site.

2 (d) Remote water storage sites may be used by any organized fire service or
3 by the state or federal government when engaged in fire protection or service
4 activities. Remote water storage sites may not be used for a purpose other than fire
5 protection or fire service.